

Appl. No. 10/643,394
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 2 is amended to be the new main claim. This is accomplished by combining the subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1, which is presented as claim 1 (currently amended). This avoids the anticipation rejection over Wheeler et al. (EP 672 537) and the obviousness rejection over Held (USP 5,537,137) in view of several secondarily cited references. Therefore, other than the provisional double patenting rejections, the only rejection remaining is the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 as anticipated by Held et al. (USP 5,537,137).

Reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following is respectfully requested.

The present invention as claimed in original claim 1 is an ink-jet recording sheet comprising a support and a porous layer, including fine particles. Claim 1 also requires a binder containing a polymer compound crosslinked through side chains of the polymer on the support. The crosslinking is formed by irradiating ionizing radiation. The added features from claim 2

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require that the weight ratio of fine particles to the binder in the porous layer is from 2:1 to 50:1.

Held et al., on the other hand, is not a porous type medium but rather, probably, a swelling type medium. Furthermore, although UV radiation is irradiated on the medium, this is not done until after printing. The object of the irradiation is to fix the ink on the medium. (See Summary of the Invention of USP 5,537,137 near the end of column 2, at lines 56-60). See also claim 1.

Since Held et al. refers to a different type of medium than the present invention which medium is used in a different way and with a different object, it is submitted that the present invention is not only not shown by Held et al. but is not rendered obvious. Combining Wheeler with Held does not strengthen the rejection. Wheeler is a swelling type medium and a porous type medium is not disclosed. The object of irradiation of the ionizing radiation is to strengthen the swelling layer.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art.

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Concerning the provisional double patenting rejection, it is requested that it held in abeyance until an appropriate time when claims are indicated as allowable in the present application or in one of the copending applications.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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